[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II

ACT ASSENTED TO BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that the Jaina Succession Bill which was passed by the Council, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 14th of February 1929." ('Hear, hear,' from the Swarajists benches.)

III

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1929-30.

DEMAND XXII—PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS—*cont.*

* Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, if I speak on the motion of Mr. Venkatapathi Raju, Sir, it is for the purpose of bringing to the notice of the Government the steps which I beg of them to take with regard to the improvement of village sanitation. I do not think that there can be any two opinions in the matter that our villages are in a very backward condition educationally and from the point of view of sanitation and also from the point of view of facilities for communication, and that a serious attempt should be made and immediately made also. This is the most propitious time for it, Sir, because after the Imperial contributions have been relieved, we have to-day according to the Budget a surplus of 4 crores of rupees which the Government propose to utilize, a part of it at least, for paying off debts. They have provided for a surplus of about Rupees two crores and thirty-three lakhs be utilized as need arises. Now, I ask, Sir, does not this surplus which is an excess of our normal requirements, come out of the taxes taken from the people and mostly from agriculturists and therefore, whether it would not be right if that money or at least a large portion of it were to be ear-marked for the improvement of the villages ? The need of the rural communities should be a first charge on this amount. The Royal Commission on Agriculture, who devoted the whole of their attention practically to the question of the improvement of agriculture, thought that much of this depended on the way in which the improvement of village life is brought about. One point, Sir, which they put very tersely in their report is in the following words :—

'Our object has been to suggest ways and means of assisting the advance of rural communities towards a fuller life.'

" And in considering that they give prime importance to the improvement of village roads and the connexion of villages with all main roads. They also consider that the local bodies' first obligation is to maintain and improve such village roads. Sir, I think, this should be the aim of those in charge of the administration of the province and they should ultimately see to it that every village has got a road and a good road too so that the villagers can easily transport their produce. These roads will facilitate the introduction of education in out-of-the-way places and will also contribute to the efficiency of the services both sanitary and medical, because the doctors can easily visit villages and the villagers also can easily go to the doctor.

" Again the Commission on Agriculture lay stress on the necessity for these communications and this is what they say :

'The provision of excellent main roads adequate in all respects for every form of transport is of little benefit to the cultivator if his access to them is hampered by the condition of the road which connects his village with them. What matters most to him is the state of the road between his village and the main road and his market.'